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Industry and Full Employment Issue

The Southern PATRIOT

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What's Wrong With Southern Industry?

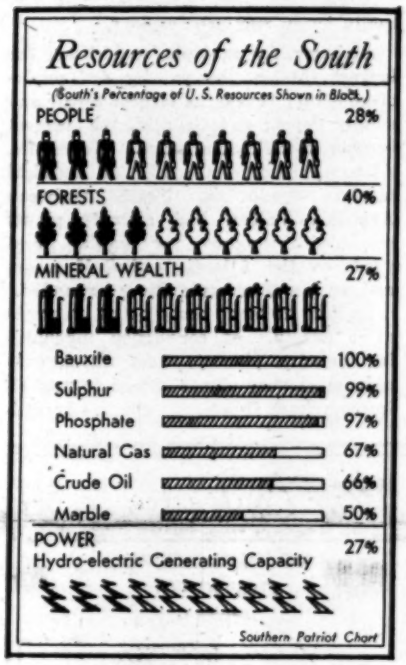
Within the memory of any living Southerner, the South, rich in human and natural resources, has been desperately poor. Its pitifully slow improvement in the past decades has been accelerated during the war, with strides forward in the living standards of the Southern people. Today the South is on the threshold of a great opportunity, for balancing its long unbalanced economy; for the increased industrialization of the region, bringing jobs and security to its people.

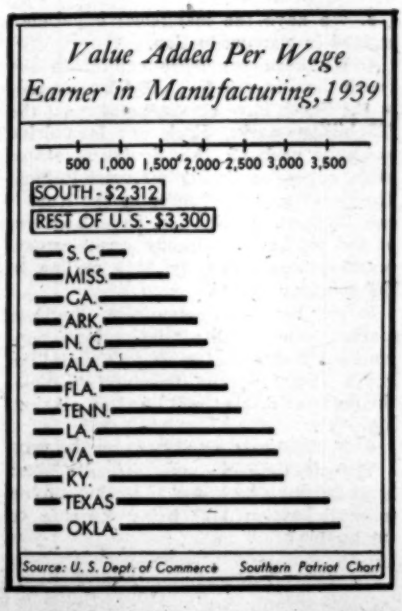
But industry alone is not enough. Industry can bring prosperity and well-being or it can bring enslavement and exploitation; it can bring better housing and better health; or it can bring slums and disease.

It is easy for Southern citizens, accustomed to the poverty surrounding them, to forget the impressive wealth of their land and their forests. The chart to the right will recall but a few of the South's resources.

But the richest Southern state is poorer than the poorest state outside the South. Why? Briefly and simply:

—Because our economy has leaned perilously on agriculture rather than industry;





—Because the industry we have is the less profitable kind;

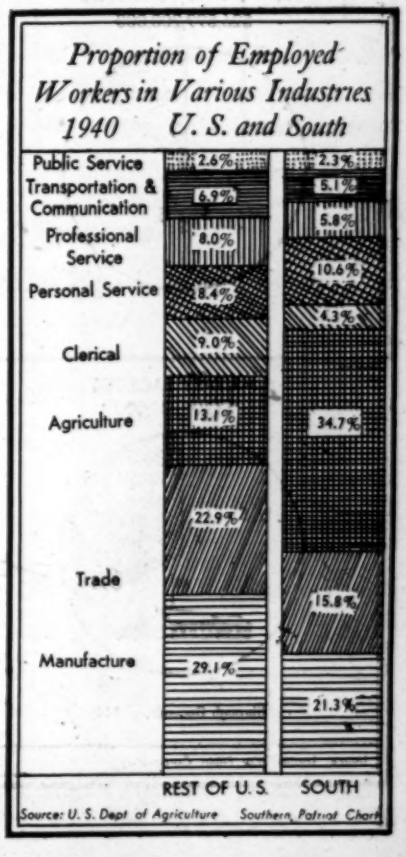
—Because outside capital and absentee ownership have drained the wealth we produce out of the region.

Forty two per cent of the Southern people live on farms, compared to only 23% of the people in the nation. The chart at the right shows that the workers outside the South are divided into a more balanced economy than those in the South, where more than a third depend on usually low, always uncertain farm income. Before the war, the average net income of the Southern farm worker was only $380 per year, compared to the average net income of the Southern worker off the farm, $1400.

There has been a heartening growth of Southern industry in the past few years, but the industry, like the agriculture, is largely poor. It is poor because it produces largely raw materials and simple products, not finished articles. For example, our iron and steel industry manufactures pig iron and steel sheets and rails, rather than automobiles, machinery or alarm clocks.

It is these industries, making finished products, requiring skilled labor and technique, in which high wages are paid and larger profits are made. The chart to the left, which shows "value added to manufacture per wage earner" shows this difference between Northern and Southern industries. This figure represents the money value added to a product by the manufacturing process; that is, what the finished product is worth, less the cost of raw materials. For industry to be profitable to the whole community, the value added by manufacture must be high.

The industries that have grown in the South are therefore low-wage industries but it is high-wage industries that give purchasing power to the people and bring prosperity to the community. The low wages paid the Southern workers, particularly the Negro workers, who are kept out of all high paying jobs, depress the entire Southern economy.


Proportion of Employed Workers in Various Industries 1940 U. S. and South
Public Service 2.6% 2.3%
Transportation & Communication 6.9% 5.1%
Professional Service 8.0% 5.8%
Personal Service 8.4% 10.6%
Clerical 9.0% 4.3%
Agriculture 13.1% 34.7%
Trade 22.9% 15.8%
Manufacture 29.1% 21.3%
REST OF U. S.
SOUTH
Source: U. S. Dept of Agriculture Southern Patriot Chart

War Changes the Face of the South

The war has had a terrific impact on the Southern economy, bringing not only a doubling of the Southern per capita income, but an unbelievable change in the face of the South. Crossroads villages have turned almost overnight into sprawling industrial centers; sharecroppers have, by the thousands, become welders.

But this changing of the South from an exclusively agricultural area to a more balanced economy has been slowly underway for some years. The chart to the right shows the steady increase of manufacturing workers in the South. In the period, 1899 to 1939, industrial production in the eleven Southeastern states increased by 510% compared to 410% for the nation. In the period 1927-1939, when the United States showed a decline in the number of manufacturing establishments, the South registered a 3.2% gain, and a production gain of 16.7%.

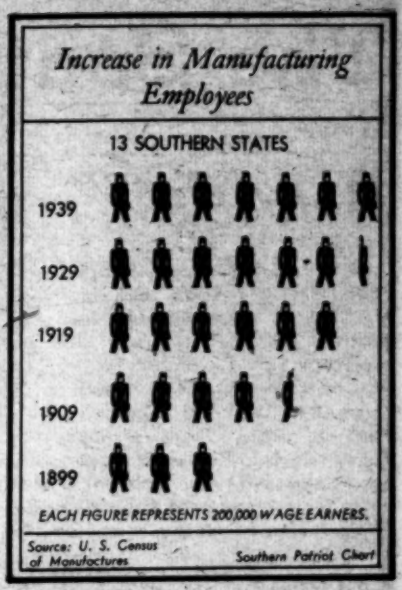
Among the industries that have in part shifted South since the first World War are textile, paper, pulp, rayon, aluminum, petroleum refining and heavy chemicals.

By 1939, the South had 82 of the largest industrial plants of their kind in the world. Nevertheless, the South lagged far behind the nation in the development of its industry, and there are few finished-product, high-wage industries.

With the outbreak of war, however, the Southern industrial picture made a remarkable change. Huge new plants were built all over the region, utilizing highly-skilled operations, producing virtually every war requirement.

Alabama, for example, could boast the largest combination powder and explosives plant; Texas, the largest repair and supply depot; and Georgia, the largest bomber modification plant. Huntsville, Alabama became a center of chemical warfare production. North American Aviation, Vultee, had aircraft plants scattered throughout the South. Shipyards on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and on the Tennessee River expanded.

Donald Nelson has quoted example after example of conversion ingenuity in Southern plants, where citrus canning machinery plants turned to producing merchant ship parts; chenille spreadmakers took up mosquito-netting; soft drink plants loaded shells instead, and mechanical pencil manufacturers produced precision instruments.



Over a third of the nation's new construction activity in 1943 was in the South. Some Southern states increased new construction in the period 1939 to 1942 as much as 454%—Arkansas—and 304%—Tennessee.

These mighty strides forward have set the stage for a period of post-war industrial expansion.

1. We have the resources: the land for plant construction, the raw materials in abundance, the fuel and power; the transportation equipment.

2. We have the newly-skilled labor reserves, ready and anxious to continue working in industry.

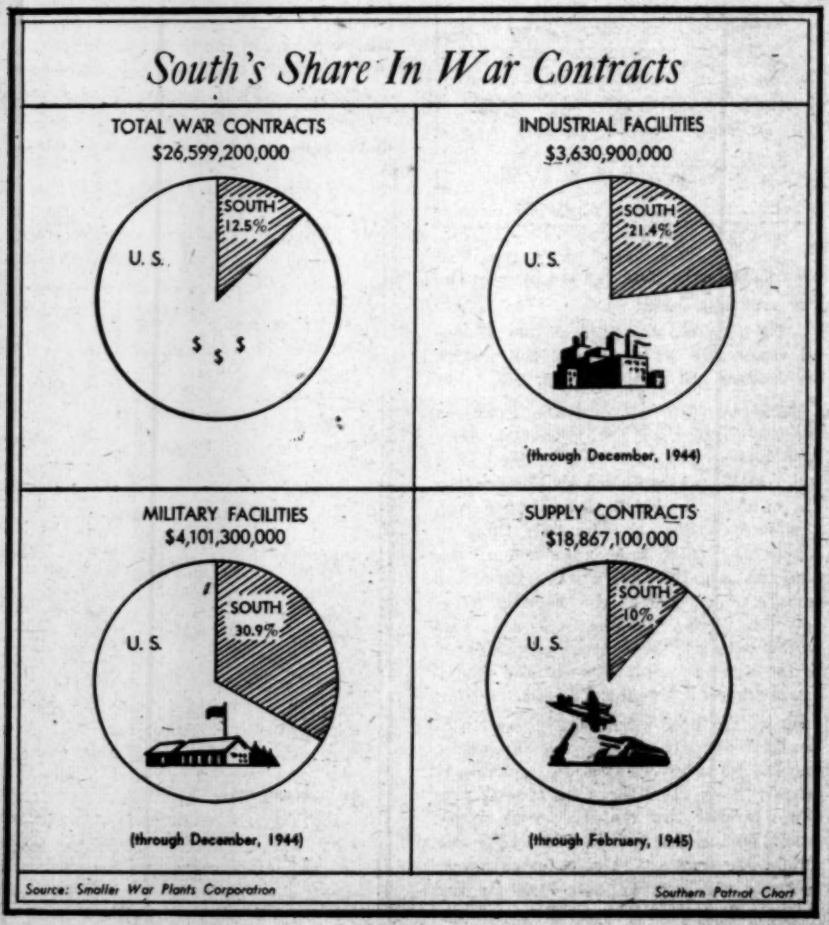
3. We have the mangerial experience trained in war production.

4. **We have far more capital in the South than ever before. Bank resources in the South have sky-rocketed, past the $25 billion mark. Each war loan drive has seen each of the Southern states over-purchasing its quota from 6 to 27%. The credit pools sponsored by the American Bankers Association have been reported as having already commitments reaching approximately $200 million in the southern states.**

5. We have a potentially limitless market—one-fourth of the nation's population. Because of savings, the civilian goods shortage, the housing shortage, the postwar market will be at an all-time high.

6. Freight rate equality is on the way.

The picture looks rosy indeed. What must be done to insure that the coming industrialization will bring benefits to the people?



Which Road for Southern Industry?

The stage is set. Southern industry will undoubtedly grow by leaps and bounds in the next few years. But will it be the same kind of industry that often brought tragedy, not prosperity, to the Southern people during the pre-war years?

Remember the industries that came South, allured by promises of cheap labor and tax exemption; the industries that paid millhands $12 a week; ruthlessly crushed all attempts at union organization; hired children by the thousands.

Whose Fault?

Southerners often tend to blame Northern capitalists for these outrages, but we should place a large share of the guilt on ourselves, our community leaders and our politicians who encouraged this type of industry. The main lesson of this experience is that we must keep in mind the goal of industrialization: a better standard of living for all the people of the South. This means:

1. The South needs no low-wage industries. We are glad to note the recommendation of the industrial development committee of the Southern Governors Conference that the Governors encourage only those industries which pay fair wages. The South further needs to raise the substandard wages now being paid in most of its plants. In the Southern cotton textile mills, for example, 90% of the workers receive less than 70c an hour; and one out of three manufacturing employees in the Southeast are in this industry. High wages alone can give the South purchasing power, can make the South a market for the products of Southern manufacture. This includes opening skilled jobs at equal wages for the Negro workers of the South, for the sake of the prosperity of the whole South.

2. The South needs plants owned and operated by Southern capital, so that the fruits of Southern labor will remain in the South. Various agencies are working to encourage small business—the R.F.C., the Smaller War Plants Corporation under the leadership of Texan Maury Maverick; and the credit pools of the American Bankers Association. The government must adopt a surplus property disposal policy which will also encourage small business and keep the greedy hands of monopoly off the government's surplus property.

3. The South needs overall planning of industrial development. It must avoid the sad results of one-sided development. What happened in the copper basin at Ducktown, Tennessee, is a good example. The company mined the copper, built a smelting plant, cut the hardwood forests for seven miles around for fuel, and allowed the sulphur fumes from the smeltery to destroy every sign of living vegetation in the area. Even the fish were killed. Today the dead, useless land has eroded into deep gullies on every side.

Planning can prevent such waste. And it is encouraging to note the growth of planning agencies in the South. All of the Southern states now have some type of planning organization. Few of them have sufficient appropriations or trained staffs, but progress is being made.

With these basic needs in mind, it is possible to determine just what types of industries are best for the South:

—We need the industries that manufacture finished goods, since these plants hire skilled labor, and add a high percentage of value to the original raw material. These industries can afford to pay higher wages. They are usually medium sized plants, mechanized but not supermechanized.

—We need industries which take full advantage of our regional resources, thus creating employment in the production of our raw materials. Especially valuable are industries which use replaceable raw materials such as products of the farm.

—We need industries which produce the products our people themselves need to buy, industries which can depend primarily upon a Southern market.

What Industries Are Best?

Here are some examples of industries, the growth of which will help gear our economy to its work of translating regional resources in terms of human welfare:

Processing of farm products: industrial alcohol, sweet potato fertilizer, cheese and butter making, canning and preserving meats, fruits and vegetables; wool processing; confectionery; condensed and evaporated milk. Growth of industries such as these will likewise encourage the development of crops other than cotton, one of the South's most urgent needs. As a Georgia writer has said: "There is not an item of the $50,000,000 worth of poultry, butter, meat and vegetables that Georgia imports every year that cannot be grown and packed and sold here more cheaply and more profitably."

Processing of timber: baskets, rattan, willow ware; boxes; paper and paperboard; newsprint; plywood and veneer; furniture and furniture parts; wood preserving; naval stores, toys and plastics. Dr. H. C. Nixon of Vanderbilt University has predicted a great expansion of the use of timber and timber products after the war. The South is in line to share abundantly in such an expansion; our timber grows faster than that anywhere in the nation.

Industries based upon mineral products: agricultural implements and equipment; aluminum and products; building accessories; chemicals; concrete products; machinery, especially textile machinery; pottery and clay products; shipbuilding; structural steel; tools; wire; fencing; plumbing and heating equipment; roofing.

Balancing the textile industry: awnings; tents, sails, canvas; clothing; cordage and twine; woolen and worsted manufacture; dyeing and finishing of textiles. The Southern textile industry is now almost entirely restricted to cotton cloth.

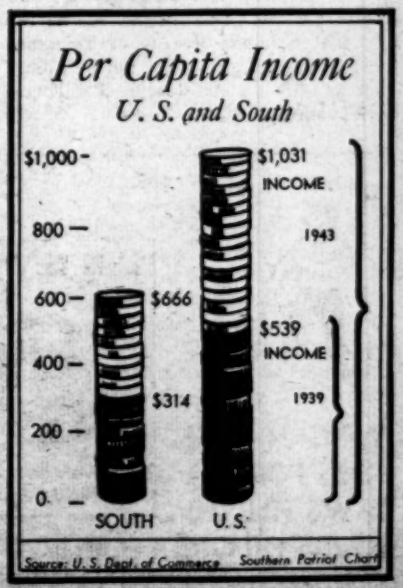
Service trades will also be due for peacetime expansion: auto repair shops, repair of farm equipment, electric appliances; amusement trades; laundries and cleaning establishments; hotels and restaurants. The building of Southern tourist trade will help expand these enterprises; and the recreational opportunities in certain Southern areas are virtually limitless and ready for promotion.

The construction field will doubtless prosper after the war. Millions of Southern homes need building and repairing.

The public works field, too, is in need of attention. The South badly needs new highways, new parks, new public buildings, schools, and libraries. Many municipalities are ready to go—waiting only for lifting of wartime restrictions.

A few special projects have been proposed which would develop the South's resources to the advantage of all: the construction of a waterway between the Tombigbee River and the Tennessee River which would save river traffic hundreds of miles from the midwest to the

(Continued on Page 7.)



Full Employment Means National Prosperity

The South cannot prosper unless the nation prospers. Southern economic advancement depends in the first instance on a successful national economic program for the postwar. The South, then, is keenly interested in how national prosperity can be attained.

The goal for the nation is the same as the goal for the South—better living standards for all. The first necessity is jobs for all. The slogan for "60 million jobs" is the key slogan, the starting point. Jobs at decent wages create the purchasing power that will keep the wheels turning; secure jobs create the confidence that enable workers to spend their money for manufacturers' products.

But skeptics have attacked this slogan. They say 60 million jobs are impossible, an idle dream. They say the nation must go back to the number of workers that were working before the war. They point to the war industries that must necessarily close up and say there will be no jobs to take their places. They say the women must go back to their kitchens, the sharecroppers back to their land. They say millions of unemployed workers are necessary. They speak of a depression sooner or later, as inevitable.

Must America accept this picture of idle machines, idle men, poor people? Must we tell our returning veterans this is what they fought for?

The answers to these questions are clear. The people of our nation are determined to have jobs after this war. If private enterprise is unable to provide them, the people are ready to insist that government shall step in and take the responsibility.

A Bill is now before Congress with this in mind: S 380. The bill was introduced by Senator James Murray of Montana, Robert Wagner of New York, Elbert Thomas of Utah and Joseph O'Mahoney of Wyoming.

The bill provides that once a year the try who are able to work and want jobs. That count is balanced against the number of workers all employing agencies in President of the United States, aided by a Congressional Committee, make a survey of the number of people in the coun- the country estimate they will be able to hire during the coming year.

If you have more people needing work than you have jobs, you set forth a program to stimulate private investment. Then you take a new total. If jobs are still lacking, you set up a public works plan with contracts going to private concerns. You don't quit figuring until the number of jobs and the number of people balance.

Should the number of available jobs exceed the number of people who could fill them, an anti-inflationary program is set in motion to keep prices down the way it has been done in the war period.

While Kentucky's Fred M. Vinson was Director of War Mobilization, he gave his unconditional support to the bill.

"History shows us," he said, "that business, labor and agriculture cannot in themselves assume the maintenance of high levels of production and employment. The government, acting on behalf of all the people, must assume this responsibility and take measures broad enough to meet the issues. Only by looking at the economy as a whole and adopting national economic policies which will actively promote and encourage the expansion of business and the maintenance of markets and consumer spending, can we hope to achieve full employment.

"S-380 recognizes this responsibility of government and seeks to provide a definite vehicle for the Congress and the President to measure the size of the employment needs of the country and to provide specific programs for meeting it.

"It would be idle to pretend that it will be easy to reach and hold full employment levels. It would be folly, on the other hand, to pretend that it is impossible. The American people will not be content to go back to protracted large-scale unemployment. It is imperative that we find ways and means to provide jobs for those willing and able to work. Depressions are not acts of God, any more than wars are. They are the product of our man-made institutions and the way we organize our society. We can and must organize to prevent both."

Undoubtedly, opposition will come to S-380 from those who would prefer to have a mass of unemployed workers as a constant threat to workers in their shops. Others will argue that the Murray bill endangers the free enterprise system. Actually everything is provided to encourage private employers to build and expand at full speed; S-380 is a challenge to industry to do what it says it can do.

Another absolute essential for national prosperity is a high wage level. With a widespread reduction in hours of work near, there must be no drop in take-home pay. This would amount to a national wage cut and would have an extremely serious effect on our economy, drastically reducing purchasing power. It is high time for wages to be increased to meet the rising cost of living. The Little Steel Formula is meaningless today, since prices have risen so sharply.

One of the most vital measures is Senator Claude Pepper's resolution declaring it to be "the sense of Congress" that any wage under 65c is substandard. Increasing the purchasing power of the vast section of the American people now making less than 65c an hour is essential if our postwar economy is to prosper.

Only by this program, plus improved social security and unemployment insurance and fair employment practice legislation, can America make full employment a reality.

THIS IS WHAT WE NEED
ADEQUATE DIET FOR 130 MILLION AMERICANS
16 MILLION DWELLINGS
UNIVERSAL HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION
MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL
ADEQUATE LEISURE
WE CAN HAVE JOBS FOR ALL IF WE FILL THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE

Southern Editors Defend Negro GI's

The Lie

"The Negro soldier was an utter and dismal failure in combat in Europe. . . He has disgraced the flag of his country. He will not fight. He will not work. . . "

Senator Eastland, Mississippi
From the Congressional Record
June 29, 1945

The Lie Nailed

Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson was asked this question: "Are Sen. Eastland's statements, attributed to unnamed generals, representative of the Army's views of the performance of Negro troops?" He replied:

"No. If any high ranking general has made such a statement, I have no knowledge of it. You have already heard views of our leading commanders—General Eisenhower, General McArthur, General Eaker and others—which do not support any such conclusion.

"The War Department is proud of its troops, and that includes Negroes as well as all other groups. . . General Eisenhower spoke of the good performance of the volunteer platoons used in the European Theatre. The Inspector General commented favorably, went out of his way to comment favorably, on the performance of the 24th Infantry Regiment in the Marianas, and there have been a number of similar commendations."

The Delta Democrat Times
Greenville, Miss.

"Utter and Abysmal Failure."

In stating that the Negro soldier has been an "utter and abysmal failure", Senator Eastland has done a disservice both to the tinder-box race relations in this country and to historical truth. We are sorry he made this remark . . .

History gives no proof that race is an index to courage. Rather, a man, no matter what his color, will fight hardest when he is fighting for something he cherishes; and he will fight best when he has the best weapons . . .

We disagree with him (Sen. Eastland) in saying that the Negro soldier has been a failure. Negroes make up ten per cent of the Army. We doubt that this country could have won a war with ten per cent of its Army in that category. Negro service troops have performed miracles. The one Negro flying unit did good work after its initial period of adjustment to killing and being killed. Individual Negroes, certain Negro combat companies, and even larger components have made combat records of which they needn't be ashamed. If in the overall picture, the Negro soldier hasn't measured up, we should look for the cause and not simply condemn.

And certainly we should not agree with Senator Eastland's ill-timed and ill-advised denunciation. It is not a way of helping the Negro along the road we are all walking, the road of good citizenship and Americanism.

The Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.

"A Cowardly Injustice to Negro Soldiers"

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare has requested President Truman and Secretaries Stimson and Forrestal to correct the record on Negro service men which was so cruelly distorted by Senator Eastland of Mississippi. . . The truth should be told and promptly, for there is no more cowardly device than that of attacking, under Congressional immunity, the courage and the Americanism of an entire race. . .

There is no justification for such statements, and for the sake of morale among the thousands of Negro fighting men who are going with their white companions from the European battlefronts to the Pacific, it is to be hoped that the Secretaries of War and Navy issue an official repudiation of Senator Eastland's charges at once. It will not be difficult to do. . . It was not by the Negro's choice that his greatest value in this war has been in the service of supply and maintenance, where he has given an excellent account of himself. . .

The Senator himself is branded as a dangerous enemy of national unity in his cowardly use of sweeping assertions designed only to discredit a loyal American minority.

The News
Macon, Ga.

"Senator Eastland's Eruption"

The speech of Senator Eastland of Mississippi in the Senate the other day . . . was a disgraceful performance that ought to shock, sadden and make ashamed every Southerner who loves his country and believes in fair treatment for all its citizens. . . It was the most shocking speech ever heard on the floor of the Senate, slandering whole races and armies and damning them down to the last individual.

We don't believe a single word the senator said; we don't see how he can believe it himself. It is physically impossible that such a blanket indictment of the 700,000 Negroes in the Army and the 170,000 in the Navy can be true.

Moreover, if the Senator's charges had any basis in fact, or were anything except the creatures of his own poisonous fancy, he would not allow the sources of his information to remain unrevealed.

Stripped of the habiliments of statesmanship, worn by virtue only of his membership in the Senate of the United States, the senator is thus revealed to be an ordinary demagogue of the type which has too often disgraced the South and humiliated her people both at home and in the councils of the nation. . .

We conceive it to be the duty of every Southerner to repudiate every appeal to racial prejudice. The white people of the South cannot live on terms of enmity and hostility with a racial minority constituting one-third of the population. Persons who fan the flames of racial hatred are enemies of the people and their free institutions.

This speech of Senator Eastland's is one of the basest appeals to such prejudice and hatred we have ever read. We hope that the entire South will repudiate it and that the senator's own state at the first opportunity will return him to the obscurity from which he came.

The Times Dispatch — Richmond, Va.

"Misrepresenting the South"

If Mississippi wants to send to the United States Senate such men as Theodore Bilbo and James Eastland, there is little the rest of the country can do about it, but the people of the other Southern states certainly do not have to remain silent under the possible imputation that these spreaders of interracial hate speak for anyone but themselves.

The tirades which Bilbo and Eastland have loosed on the Senate floor of late against the whole colored race are not approved or condoned by the rank and file of Southern whites. The average Southerner is fairminded and tolerant, and he believes in giving credit where credit is due. The blanket denunciations of all Negro soldiers which Senator Eastland has just issued do not appeal to the Southern people as either accurate or just. Furthermore, they stir up strife at the very time the efforts of responsible people are in the opposite direction. . .

It is humiliating to the South for two Mississippi demagogues to misrepresent the Southern people with their unfair diatribes.

Letters to the PATRIOT

Why The South Needs FEPC

To the Editor:

I think you will be interested in a letter the Nashville Industrial Union Council wrote Rep. Percy Priest, in reply to a letter from him opposing a permanent FEPC. I quote it in part:

Regimentation?

"We know that you do not sanction the policy of denying employment because of color; we know that your earnest support of the democratic way of life, your regard for justice and fair play, as revealed in your past record, lead you to oppose job discrimination. We know, too, that you realize the economic benefits to the entire South that would result from equality of opportunity for all our citizens.

"We know that we differ only in our judgment of how unAmerican, undemocratic and unfair job discrimination can be prevented and wiped out. You are worried that HR 2232 will result in regimentation. We cannot share this fear.

"We think first, that the operation of the presently constituted FEPC has shown that a policy of fair employment practices can be peacefully and effectively promoted. Although the overwhelming number of cases brought before the FEPC related to the North, those complaints which came from the South have, on the whole, been satisfactorily adjusted, with no instance of friction, regimentation or violence.

Will Legislation Cure Prejudice?

"Second, we feel that this problem can be effectively tackled in no other way. We do not agree, as some opponents of this bill have claimed, that because the question of job discrimination has moral overtones, legislation is futile. It is true that legislation cannot eliminate prejudice. But you can, by legislation, make certain actions illegal. We see no difference between handling this problem and handling any other illegal acts which have moral overtones. For example, legislation does not regulate the impulse which drives man to murder, but it does make such actions illegal. Our most basic and precious statutes, such as the Bill of Rights, seem to us to fall into the same category. You, as a recognized churchman, ought especially to be taking the lead in legislation of this kind, which would strengthen our legal system and bring it more into conformity with the precepts of Christianity."

J. D. Roberts, President
Nashville, Tenn., CIO Council

Overseas Patriot:

We have received a long letter from Alton Lawrence, former executive secretary of the Southern Conference, from Salzburg, Austria, describing his experiences as mortarman with the Third Division, most battle-scarred and most decorated division in the U. S. Army. Here are some excerpts:

"In Nurmberg I had a big moment. One battalion from each regiment in the Third was picked to stage a victory parade in the big stadium where the Nazi party congresses were held. General Patch spoke and five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded 3rd Division men. But the highlight of the occasion was the raising of the American flag over the face of the huge Nazi swastika which rose high above Hitler's favorite podium, while the band played the Star Spangled Banner. I am not likely to forget that occasion! . . .

"Another highly gratifying experience occured in Munich. I found four escaped political prisoners from Dachau who had hidden out up to a year with a couple of German anti-Nazi families. I was the first American soldier they had seen and what a welcome it was! After telling me their story—out of the original group of some 400 only 40 were still alive—they expressed their intense desire to help round up a few neighborhood Nazis. So I got in touch with Battalion and had the great satisfaction in helping round up three Nazi party members and a member of the Gestapo. . .

Gets Battlefield Commission

"Let me tell you about Tex Dobbs. (Malcolm Dobbs, formerly secretary of the League of Young Southerners, SCHW Youth division.) He received his commission (battlefield variety) soon after I left for the hospital and was wounded before I rejoined the company. It was on the occasion of the jump-off against the Seigfried Line. He was leading a machine gun platoon (heavies) attached to a rifle company when the latter's commander and a platoon leader were among those killed or wounded in a terrific mine field. With the entire bunch afraid to go forward but being knocked out by enemy artillery, Tex took command and led through the minefield until they came up against an enemy strongpoint. He got hit in the shoulder but stayed at his job until the strongpoint was taken, then got a German prisoner to lead him back through the minefield, collecting wounded and lost GIs en route and bringing them to safety.

"This is good for a Silver Star which, as awards clerk for the company, I have already turned in. He has several other citations coming for incidents which occurred last fall and winter. . . .

"Tex is now the company Information and Education officer and I am his assistant. As an old combat outfit, this division has never put the Army orientation program into effect but it will now.

Alton Lawrence.

Which Way for Industry?

(Continued from Page 5.)

Gulf coast; the development of the Cumberland River Valley, as the Tennessee Valley has developed, under the TVA.

These are some of the lines along which it has been proposed that Southern industry might develop most advantageously. But what about the reconversion problem of those plants now producing for the war effort?

In the first place, most of the Southern plants now producing for war are producing much the same product as in peacetime. This is true of the textile industry, the iron and steel industry, the oil industry—altogether 75% of Southern pre-war plants fall in this category of plants that will have no significant problem of reconversion.

The remaining 25% of old plants are making new products with new facilities, which by and large, they feel can be integrated into the plant organization for a more diversified and often higher value products after the war.

But the major reconversion problem concerns the new plants, in shipbuilding, aircraft, munitions and ordnance, representing an investment of over three billion dollars. Department of Commerce officials believe the possibilities of conversion of such plants to peacetime operations are limited. This is a very serious problem since these industries alone employ a large percentage of the total number of Southern factory workers.

These are some of the problems which must be kept in mind, the dangers that must be watched in the period of post-war adjustment. Industrialization can bring new life to the South, new opportunities to all its people. It can mean a better standard of living, secure jobs, better education, better health, more democracy, a stronger labor movement. Only through industrialization can these gains be won. But a great responsibility is on the South today—on the labor unions, the farmers organizations, the church movement, the civic groups—the whole community—to see that prosperity, not poverty, is ahead for the South.

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare Reports:

Many of our readers have asked about the work of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, the organization which publishes the Southern Patriot. So, this month, we are jotting down some notes about a few of the recent activities of the Southern Conference:

South Supports FEPC

When the filibusterers seized control of the Senate floor, holding up the vital war agencies appropriations, they claimed to speak for the "solid" South in their opposition to the Fair Employment Practices Committee. Chapters of the Southern Conference, in Georgia and Tennessee, however, were skeptical. They arranged for the "silent" South to be heard.

In two days, the Davidson County, Tennessee chapter secured more than 1700 names from every Southern state to a petition urging the creation of a permanent FEPC. Since it was a rush job, signees had to invest in a telegram to our Washington representative, authorizing their signatures. Mr. Bilbo was unhappy about that list of names, which included outstanding Southern citizens of every profession.

The Committee for Georgia, affiliated with SCHW, cooperated in securing names of more than 1000 Georgians to a similarly impressive petition.

FEPC was barely saved from death. The fight for a permanent Commission —to guarantee equal employment opportunity to all our citizens—must go on.

Georgia

The Committee for Georgia has new offices in the Chamber of Commerce Building in Atlanta, Room 502. Already, publications are pouring forth. A new, attractive brochure on the Committee is just off the press and the first issue of a new public affairs bulletin, Let People Know, is now circulating. Your Part in Georgia Politics, a little handbook on government in Georgia, will soon be available.

Alabama

The Alabama Chapter's weekly radio forums are a big success. Round table discussions so far have dealt with the educational needs of Alabama, How Sick is the South, the pros and cons of poll tax abolition, and Alabama housing. Dr. Douglas Hunt, Birmingham-Southern College professor, is moderator. Speakers have included a Birmingham school principal, a PTA official, a Jefferson County Health Officer, the Alabama director of the American Cancer Society, the President of the Birmingham Industrial Union Council, a United Mine Worker official, a well-known lawyer, several state legislators and a newspaper columnist. The program is broadcast every Saturday from 2:30 P.M. to 3:00 over Station WBRC.

Florida

The Southern Conference has been fortunate in securing the services of Virgil Conner as its Florida representative. Mr. Conner lives in Apopka, where for many years he edited a citrus growers newspaper. He was most recently employed by The Floridian, liberal magazine in St. Petersburg.

Washington

The Washington Chapter, too, has new office space at 935 G Place, N. W.

Recent speakers at Washington Chapter luncheons have included Representative Luther Patrick of Alabama, and Edward Prichard, of the Office of War Mobilization.

Several weeks ago, an extensive memorandum on the South's stake in Foreign Trade was prepared by the Washington Chapter, and sent to all Southern Senators and Representatives, pointing out the South's interest in reciprocal trade agreements.

New York

David Lilienthal made his first speech since his reappointment as Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority at a luncheon in his honor given by our New York Chapter. Mr. Lilienthal made a stirring "report to the TVA stockholders" of the achievements in the Valley. Other speakers included Rt. Rev. G. Bromley Oxnam, Dr. Channing Tobias, Mayor LaGuardia and Senator Pepper.

Our Officers

We might also mention some of the extra-curricular activities of our officers. Dr. Clark Foreman, our President, made the commencement address at Tuskeegee Institute, and participated in the Institute of Race Relations at Fisk University, speaking on "What's New About the New South". Dr. James Dombrowski, our Executive Secretary, lectured at the Institute for Church Leadership of the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

SCHW Pamphlet Wins Friends for Labor

"For Your Children Too", a new publication of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, is a message to the Southern people about labor unions, their aims and work, in terms of what they have done for children.

Too many Southerners are ignorant and misinformed about the labor movement. We believe "For Your Children Too" will help interpret unions to these thousands of people. No effort is more important today, as our native fascists are trying desperately to stir up anti-labor feelings among veterans, farmers, women and religious groups. This pamphlet spreads the facts that are needed to counteract this propaganda.

Full of 32 pages of heart-warming pictures, with a fresh approach to the subject, "For Your Children Too" deserves a wide circulation. It is available at 10c per copy, $7.50 per hundred. How many copies can you use?

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